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In Suspense.
"So you don't know whether you want to go to work or not?"
"Well, sub," answered Mr. Erastus Pinkley, "I'd like de refusal ob de job a little while."
"But I need somebody right away."
"In dat case I'll have to let it go by. I've jes' bought a policy ticket, an' I'll haffer wait till aftuh de drawin' to see whether I've gwine to work at all or not."—Washington Star.

The Time Honored Spanker.
Once my sister Floy was sent on an errand for some things for my mother. There was a traveling man there who was selling carpet spankers, and he asked her:
"Has your mother got one of these spankers?"
"No, sir," she replied.
"What does she use?" he asked.
"Her hand," was the prompt reply.—Chicago Chronicle.

Made His Mark.
"Hivens, Molke, th' eye av yel Phat's de matter?"
"I sthruck a man yesterday an' he gave me a receipt for it."—Ohio State Journal.

Municipal Bridegrooms.
An amusing story is told of the crowning of a rose queen of a country district near Paris. The selected queen, as one of the formalities of awarding their dowry, was asked by the mayor for the name of her fiancé.
"I have none," she replied. Notified that a sweetheart was indispensable, the young lady added timidly, "I thought the municipality provided everything necessary." Straightway a young swain presented himself as an aspirant, and, being as promptly accepted, all things became regular and in order.

Synonymous.
A French gentleman, rescued from a ducking in the river and taken to an adjacent tavern, was advised to drink a tumbler of very hot brandy and water and thus addressed the waiter who was mixing it:
"Sir, I shall thank you not to make it a fortnight."
"A fortnight?" replied Joe. "Hadn't you better take it directly?"
"Oh, yes," said monsieur, "directly, to be sure, but not a fortnight—not two week."—Boys of the Empire.

GUADALUPE SHRINE.

THE MOST DEARLY BELOVED SPOT IN OLD MEXICO.

Thousands From All Over the Country Make Pilgrimages to the Little Village Each Year—The Story That Is Handed Down by Tradition.

There is no spot in all Mexico as dearly beloved as the little town of Guadalupe, which is two and a half miles north of the City of Mexico.

The little village has only 3,000 souls, but many more thousands visit the place on certain days in the year when pilgrimages are made to the holy shrine of Guadalupe.

The 1st of January and the 12th of each month the faithful visit this place and toil up the hill on which it is said that the virgin Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego, an Indian boy.

According to tradition, Juan was trudging over the hill of Tepeyac on his way to the city on the morning of Dec. 9, 1531, and as he reached the eastern slope of the hill he heard sounds like music. He stopped to listen, and at that moment a cloud appeared and in the midst of it a beautiful lady. She told him to go to the bishop in her name and to tell him that it was her wish that a church should be built on that spot, where she would always be found to give aid to all in trouble. Juan Diego hurried to the bishop with the story of the virgin, but no attention was paid to it. Upon his return home the lady appeared again in the same spot and urged Juan to go again to the bishop.

The following day was the Sabbath and after mass Juan found the bishop and repeated the message once more. The bishop told him to bring a sign from the virgin. Juan saw the virgin again upon his return home, and she promised to give him a sign, which she did on Dec. 12 as he was going to confession. He passed this time near the foot of the hill, where she appeared once more, and while in conversation with Juan she stamped her foot by way of emphasis, and water flowed at once from the dry, barren hillside, and two holy wells mark that spot today.

The virgin then told Juan to climb to the summit of that barren rocky hill and he would find roses growing there, which he was to gather and carry in his "tilma" to the bishop. Juan did as he was told and found the loveliest roses growing just where she had told him to search for them. He gathered them all and placed them in his "tilma," a sort of blanket.

When he arrived at the house of the bishop and opened the blanket, the roses fell to the floor, and a picture in colors appeared on the blanket representing the virgin as she had appeared to Juan. The bishop fell on his knees in prayer and arose with a promise to build a chapel on the spot the virgin had designated.

Bishop Zumarraga set about to build the church, and when it was completed the "tilma" was placed above the altar in a frame of gold and silver.

That little chapel has since been replaced by the magnificent church to be seen today. There are also two other churches to mark the spot on which the roses were gathered on the summit and at the holy well where the virgin last appeared to Juan. This miracle was recognized in 1663, and in 1764 it was fully sanctioned and confirmed by a papal bull. Later, in 1824, congress decreed Dec. 12 to be a national holiday.

Hidalgo took a picture of Guadalupe for his standard, around which rallied the first army of the revolutionists, and the happy issue that her assistance gave to that war endeared her still more to the people. This picture on the "tilma" is a wonderful piece of work. Artists from all over the world have examined it and have testified that it is of no known style of painting. The Indian garment of itxtil fiber is of a coarse weave. The picture appears on both sides of the cloth and is as bright as new, although said to be over 300 years old. The Church of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe, in which this marvelous picture hangs, is said by experts to be one of the richest and handsomest on earth today. Its treasures can be counted by millions. It was dedicated May 1, 1709, and is 184 feet long by 122 feet wide. It has a vaulted roof, supported by Corinthian columns. The whole is surmounted by a dome, the lantern of which is 125 feet above the floor. The building cost \$1,181,000. The jewels, gold and silver plate and other rich belongings nearly all belong to the government and are estimated at \$2,000,000 more.

The church possesses a very costly crown for the virgin. It is of solid gold and weighs many pounds. There are six shields on the crown for the six archbishops of Mexico, and they are all surrounded by diamonds. There are a number of angels, each having an immense ruby on the breast, while the rest of the surface of the crown is covered with sapphires and emeralds. This crown is surmounted by the Mexican eagle, holding aloft a large diamond cross.

The poor pilgrims are not able, many of them, to form an idea of the richness of this church, with its communion rail and balustrades from the sanctuary to the choir of solid silver. They are three feet high, with a top molding a foot wide and a still more massive base. The sacred vessels are all of pure gold embedded with precious stones. The choir has some fine carvings done in ebony and mahogany. The finest is a basso relievo above the stalls, illustrating the litany of the virgin.

Artists were brought from France to paint the frescoes on the walls, and the paintings and statues were the work of the best European artists and sculptors. The organ in itself represents a small fortune.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Wedding Bells.

"Two souls with but a single thought,
Two hearts that beat as one."

At high noon on Wednesday December 24th, 1902, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Percy R. Trubshaw, occurred a very pretty wedding when the lives of Mr. John A. Moffatt and Miss Lilyan M. Haskell were joined together in the holy bonds of wedlock. Rev. Victor H. Ruring, pastor of the Congregational church performing the beautiful marriage ceremony. There were twenty-five present at the ceremony. The rooms had been very prettily decorated for the occasion with holly, mistletoe and evergreen roping and a large arch made of the same material was erected on the south side of the parlor under which the couple stood while the ceremony was performed. The bridal couple were preceded downstairs to the rooms by Miss Maude Trubshaw, dressed in pure white, her only ornament being a cream rose bud, and Willie Moffatt, dressed in black, took their places each side of the arch and the bride was presented with her bouquet of cream roses by her little maid of honor. The guests then stood in a semi-circle around the arch until the conclusion of the beautiful ceremony, the whole arrangement being very pretty. The happy couple then received the hearty congratulations of all present, and after enjoying a short time in a social way the guests sat down to a nice luncheon prepared for the occasion. The bride was very prettily gowned in a dress of pale blue crepe de chine, trimmed with white silk applique and white taffeta ribbon and certainly looked very pretty. The groom was attired in a dress suit of black. The bride is the youngest daughter of Capt. and Mrs. A. Haskell. She has grown up from young childhood to mature womanhood in this community, and for the past several years has been one of Griggs county's popular school teachers. She is a winsome young lady, possessed of a very sweet and sunny disposition and has a host of friends who heartily hope for her the blessings of a long and happy wedded life. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Moffatt, has been a resident of Cooperstown a number of years, is a carpenter and contractor by profession, and is an upright and worthy young gentleman, and also is possessed of a sunny disposition and good nature. He has built and furnished for his bride a very nice home on the Boulevard where the happy couple have settled down to housekeeping. They were the recipients of a large number of very handsome and useful presents. The COURIER heartily joins with a host of friends in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Moffatt all the happiness there is to enjoy in this world.

REYNOLDS-JIMESON.

At the home of the bride's grandfather, Mr. William C. Jimeson, on Christmas Day, 1902, occurred the marriage of Miss Margaret R. Jimeson to Mr. Rolla L. Reynolds, in the presence of a few outside guests and members of the family. The rooms of the house were nicely decorated with holly and evergreens appropriate to the season. The ceremony occurred at 2 o'clock p. m., Rev. Oscar D. Purinton being the officiating minister, using the impressive ring ceremony to tie the nuptial knot. Following the ceremony the usual congratulations were extended and the company, twenty-three in number, sat down to a very fine wedding collation. The bride was very prettily attired in rose colored silk trimmed with white applique, which was very becoming. The groom was attired in the conventional black suit. The contracting parties are well known, the bride having been a resident of this place for eighteen years. She is a young lady of pleasant good nature and is very highly esteemed by all who know her and has hosts of friends, who wish her married life to be one continual happy dream. The groom has only been here two or three years but is a steady, upright young man. The friends of both unite in extending hearty congratulations and hope that their married life will be pleasant and prosperous. The newly married couple left Friday for the twin cities to spend the honeymoon after which they will settle down to housekeeping with Mr. W. C. Jimeson. Many nice presents were received—both useful and ornamental.

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